THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) For the US Fiscal year 2008, USAID has requested US Government foreign assistance level of US$ 81 million for India. However, the budget for Fiscal Year, 2008 has not been approved by US Congress as yet.

(c) For the US fiscal year 2008, USAID has requested foreign assistance levels for Afghanistan and Pakistan about 84 percent of US$ 2.198 billion, the amount requested for the South and Central Asian Countries.

Bungling of mutual funds

343. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether SEBI is aware that Tata Tax Advantage Fund launched by Tata Mutual Fund in Febuary, 2006, did not appreciate to the desired level inspite of substantial appreciation of stock market during, 2006-07;

(b) if so, whether SEBI propose to inquire into this bungling by the managers of the Fund for suspected bad investment due to corruption or negligence at the cost of small investors;

(c) if so, by when that is likely to be done; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The performance of a Mutual Fund Scheme depends on several factors including scheme objective, investment strategy, market movement, etc. However, Tata Tax Advantage Fund has generated a compound annualized return of 11.48% as on July 31,2007 since its inception.

(b) to (d) The Asset Management Company of the Fund has confumed to SEBI that they have complied with all relevant and applicable investment guidelines prescribed by SEBI.

Financial assistance to exporters

344. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to extend frnancial ässistance to the exporters in the country who have suffered in the wake of appreciation of Indian Rupee *vis-a-vis* US Dollar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the scheme is likely to be implemented and from which date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The committee to assess the impact of rupee appreciation on exports constituted by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has given a series of